



EdQual

A Research Programme Consortium on
Implementing Education Quality in Low Income Countries



New Possibilities for International Partnerships, Collaboration and Capacity Building in Educational Research

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New Possibilities for International Partnerships, Collaboration and Capacity Building in Educational Research

- Review of international literature in light of our collective experience of N-S research partnerships
- Critical reflections on one DFID-funded research programme consortium
- Draw out implications on different levels
 - EdQual
 - N-S research partnerships
 - Engagement of development agencies
 - Theoretical literature

Review of Literature

- Much on development partnerships; less on research partnerships
- Team members experience with research collaboration with colleagues in Belize, Kenya, Tanzania & Rwanda
- 2005-2010 EdQual
- Comparative perspectives on the dangers of uncritical international transfer of policy & practice - & research paradigms & approaches.



It is not easy to avoid the dangers of ‘uncritical transfer’ if one lacks the national or institutional capacity to undertake the type of research or investigative inquiry necessary to ‘customise’ the experiences of others, however tried and tested

Dame Pearlette Louisy
Governor General St. Lucia

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School
leadership

Ghana
Tanzania

UK, Pakistan

Language &
literacy

Tanzania
Ghana

UK

School &
pupil
effects

Bristol
(SACMEQ)

Curriculum
Change

South Africa
Rwanda
Pakistan

UK

Use of ICT

Rwanda
South Africa

UK, Chile

13 PhD projects

Ghana, Rwanda, SA, Tz, Zanzibar

2 Small Scale Projects

Ghana, SA, Tz

The 'Reflections' Research

- 14 written reflections
- 2 'reflection workshops'
- Anonymous successes & challenges from around 20 people
- Documents
 - Invitation to tender, proposal
 - Inception phase report, Annual reports,

Vision for partnership

- Research conceptualised and led from within Africa
 - Critique of dominant research ‘collaboration’ models
 - Moral & ethical position (Postcolonial perspectives)
 - Relevance to African policy and practice (comparative perspectives)

Vision for Partnership

- High premium on process goals
 - Equitable partnership
 - N-S-S collaboration & networks
 - Capacity building for all (N&S)

Decentralising leadership?

DFID's TOR

centralised model of management ,
“partners involved in all stages”

EdQual aspiration

decentralised management of projects

New Roles New Tensions

Director
Responsibility
indirect control

African researchers
Circumscribed leadership
Resource for
management

UK – resource
Reactive vs Proactive?
Communication channel
Incentives?

Conclusions & Implications

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- Critical reflection, learning
- Celebrate small steps
- Build on caps

N-S-S collaboration

- Shared informed value-basis
- Human element - Mutual respect & trust

Funders

- Risk new research partnership modalities
- value process outputs, get product outputs

Theoretical literature

- Recognise tensions & challenges of new research modalities
- Development as process not product



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